

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The invention relates to methods and compositions for delivering iron to an iron-deficient patient, more particularly, to methods whereby an iron complex comprising divalent or trivalent ionic iron complexed with one or more low molecular weight anions is administered to a patient by transfer from dialysate. A complex selected according to the invention is non-polymeric; soluble in an aqueous medium; chemically stable, thereby preventing the dissociation of iron ions from the anions under conditions according to the invention; and can be well absorbed into blood and the living body. Also provided are dialysate compositions including therein an iron complex selected according to the invention, and dialysate concentrates which may be diluted to yield an inventive dialysate composition.

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